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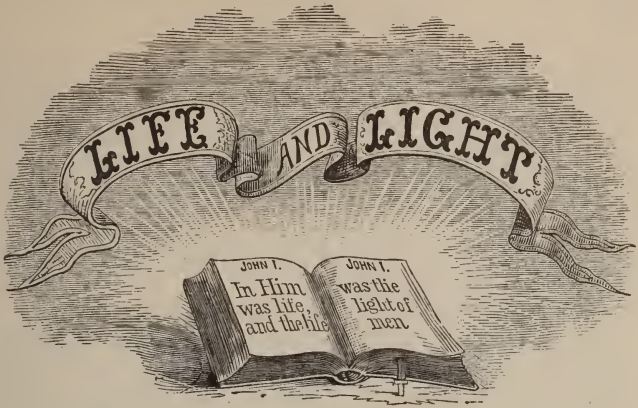
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FOR WOMAN.

VOL. V.

MARCH, 1875.

No. 3.

INDIA.

LETTER FROM MISS SISSON.

I HAVE been admitted to several new families of late. In one of them is the wife of a government official, recently removed here from the south, who had learned to read with tolerable ease under native teachers, but, feeling anxious to pursue her studies, had applied to one of our Bible-women for instruction. I inquired if she knew any thing of the Bible, and found she had never heard of it. I told her we went only where we could teach this truth ; and, when she found that the services of the Bible-woman as teacher could not otherwise be secured, she reluctantly, and rather ungraciously, consented to my reading and speaking of our religion. At my first visit I asked if there were not other women in the house who would come to the hall to hear me ; and she replied impatiently, "There is only myself. Read, read!" Having read to her of

Jesus, I told her what a precious Saviour he had been to me, and that I had left home and friends to tell her, and other Hindoo women, of the joy there was for them in him. I noticed that her manner softened ; and, when I left, she urged me to come often. The next time I went I found a relative with her, eager to listen to my story ; and now I sometimes have twelve women gathered about me when I read in that house.

The women say, as I talk with them from house to house, "Yes, we also wish to be Christians." It is an Oriental politeness, and means little. To show them that we know their lack of whole-hearted desire for the truth, we reply, "Well, if you really wish it, God will make you such. He is ready now to do it ; but you must give yourself to him wholly, leaving all sin, ceasing to worship idols." — "Yes, we are ready for that," they say. "Will you rub off those marks from your foreheads?" Each one has a tutelary god, whose sign is painted on the forehead ; and this question usually causes confusion in the camp of the enemy. In one house where some women insisted upon their sincerity in wishing for the new heart, I said, "Would you like to have us ask our God to give it to you?" An eager assent. "Would you like to have us pray here?" A pause, a frightened look. We had never asked to pray in a heathen house before, and I was not sure but it was pushing matters too far : but, finally, one of the women said, "Yes, you may pray ;" and, turning to the Bible-woman, I said, "Pray." Can you imagine the reverential joy with which I knelt to join silently in the petition that was ascending to the great King? I was almost overwhelmed with the thought of the grand possibilities of this great work, and the yearnings of soul over these my poor lost sisters, who, in spite of all their protestations, I knew had little sense of their danger, or the great blessings of the gospel so free to them.

Our Work at Home.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE seventh anniversary of the Woman's Board of Missions took place at Park-street Church, Boston, on Tuesday, the 5th of January. At ten o'clock, A.M., the meeting was called to order by Mrs. Albert Bowker, President; and the exercises were opened with the chanting of the Sixty-seventh Psalm, by Miss Susie C. Gould and Mrs. Collins, with organ accompaniment by Miss Lovejoy. A short address by the President, founded upon the Scripture lesson from Haggai ii., was followed by prayer, offered by Mrs. Robie of New Hampshire; when the Annual Report of the Recording Secretary was read, adopted, and ordered to be printed.

Receipts for the year were reported by the Treasurer, Mrs. Benjamin E. Bates, who also acknowledged some special donations received since closing the accounts; one of which was fifty dollars to constitute twin grandchildren (infants but of days) members for life. It may be added here, that this announcement of the Treasurer provoked to the same good work a lady present from Canada, who arose from her seat with the request that a grandchild, the intelligence of whose birth she had just received, might be enrolled with these new life-members.

Total Receipts for 1874	\$67,419.08
General Funds	41,199.69
Constantinople Home	13,351.26
Publications	7,868.15
Legacy of Hon. Homer Bartlett	5,000.00

An historical sketch of the Constantinople Home (to be printed hereafter) was presented by Mrs. D. C. Scudder, Corresponding Secretary.

After attention to some items of business, and singing by the audience, Mrs. Bowker introduced Miss M. A. Proctor, missionary from Aintab, with the remark, that those who heard Miss Proctor at our first anniversary would be glad to hear from her again. Miss Proctor said she deemed it a great pleasure to be at the first Annual Meeting, and was happy to be present now, but would esteem it a greater privilege to be in her field, at her proper work. She spoke of having been able to accomplish more, apparently, in the last four years of her service in Aintab than during the first nine. "Greater command of the language, better acquaintance with the people, better helps in the way of text-books, and educated assistant teachers, have tended greatly to facilitate their work, though not to lessen its amount, as their plan of operations has, within a few years, been greatly enlarged. Instead of confining themselves, as formerly, to the care of their own boarding-schools, they have, in connection with native school committees, the superintendence of a system of graded schools, which, in the Aintab district, includes some dozen village schools, besides the six or eight in the city. In the Marash field the work is of similar dimensions. In the two about thirty native young women are employed, having under their care not far from a thousand pupils. This plan throws great responsibility upon the American teachers, both on account of the inexperience of their assistants and the difficulty in overcoming the old customs and prejudices of the people, so as to secure any thing like system in the classification of the scholars. Another matter," said Miss Proctor, "that has demanded much of our thought and time, is the social

position of Christian women. This subject was brought boldly before us by the erection of a second church in Aintab, at a time when no missionary was on the ground to take direct superintendence of it. So, before any one was fully aware of their intentions, the native brethren had assigned the whole body of the house to the men, leaving only the gallery to the women, after the manner of the old Armenian churches. When their attention was called to it by the missionaries, the pastor and some of the more enlightened brethren were ready at once to take right ground ; but the majority, including many leading men, were bitterly opposed to allowing the women any place on the floor of the house. It took four years of earnest effort in the way of private conversation, pulpit instruction, and newspaper articles, so far to reform public opinion, that a vote was carried to allow the women about one-fourth of the body of the house, besides the gallery."

AFTERNOON.

At the close of recess, during which delegates partook of a collation at Pilgrim Hall, the afternoon session was opened by an anthem, beautifully rendered by the young ladies before mentioned ; and prayer was offered by Mrs. Hooker of Springfield.

After the election of officers, who were nominated by a committee previously appointed, Miss Child, Home Secretary, read a letter of greeting from the Woman's Board of the Interior, through their Secretary, Mrs. Blatchford. Miss Child also presented the Report of Miss Halsey, Secretary of the PHILADELPHIA BRANCH, which noted the addition of four new auxiliaries during the year, with increasing interest in the missions with which they are especially connected, and a large gift from one of their members towards the Constantinople Home.

Mrs. Burdett Hart of the NEW HAVEN BRANCH said, that since their Annual Meeting, in May, they had added twenty-four to their fifty auxiliaries, and ten to their thirty mission-circles. Reminded by the Secretary of what is expected of the Branch, she must break her resolution of not referring to their treasury. "But," said Mrs. Hart, "as there are yet four months to the harvest, we do not despair. We report some serious obstacles to our work; chief of all, the fact that we find in every church those who freely avow that they have 'no interest in foreign missions.' On the other hand, we rejoice in an increasing number of earnest, prayerful workers. We find, now and then, one ready to give her life to this necessary home part of the work, in much the same spirit that moves these missionary sisters to go far hence to the heathen. By the efforts of one such woman a meeting was called, in which eight towns were represented, which was a season of great refreshment and consecration to all present. Our sister who was responsible for this meeting was greatly burdened beforehand, having never presided on any such occasion. At ten o'clock, A.M., of the eventful day, she wished there had never been a Woman's Board; but at four, P.M., she thanked God for the preciousness thereof. Our faith sometimes stumbles at the fact, that the burdens of this great work often rest upon the weakest and feeblest of the sisterhood; but we begin to see, that, even in this, the Master may be honored, and his grace magnified."

Mrs. Luther Daniels, President of the VERMONT BRANCH, alluded to the meeting in Rutland as having awakened a missionary spirit in the State, and related an interesting incident by way of illustration. In one county all the Congregational churches but two, which are without pastors, have their own organizations: in these the leaven is at work, and another year will find them enrolled.

Mrs. H. W. Wilkinson, Secretary of the RHODE ISLAND BRANCH, reported a large and interested audience at their first anniversary, in October, which gave assurance of widely-extending interest in the cause. In sixteen of their twenty churches, they have organizations ; and their ten mission-circles are their most efficient auxiliaries. One little band meets monthly in the family circle, with a programme of appropriate exercises ; and their missionary-box will by and by be heard from.

Mrs. Helen C. Knight of the NEW HAMPSHIRE BRANCH said, that, at the beginning of the year, there were but few auxiliaries in their State ; and these were widely separated, knowing little or nothing of each other. "To develop more systematic effort, circulars were sent to the churches, inviting co-operation ; and the ladies of Manchester, with a wise and prompt discernment of what next needed to be done, invited the Christian women of the surrounding churches to come together for a day of missionary conference and prayer. It was a day of Christian fellowship long to be remembered : out of it sprang confidence, co-operation, and growth. Public meetings have been held at six of our eight county conferences, some of which were large, and all of which excited great interest. The ladies of Mr. Spaulding's church, at Dover, invited those from the neighboring churches to spend a day with them, for discussion and quickening in the mission-work. It was good to be there. The work rose in value as we gave it thought and purpose and prayer. The present number of auxiliaries is sixty-one, with eighteen mission-circles, whose contributions have amounted to fifteen hundred dollars." Mrs. Knight also mentioned a thank-offering of twenty-five dollars to the Woman's Board, from a mother in Claremont, whose son had been rescued from drowning during a summer excursion, and said, that "expressions

of grateful love like this would soon fill the treasury of the church."

The MAINE BRANCH, reported by Miss Spofford, Secretary, has been in existence but little over a year; but, under the vigorous efforts put forth for the extension of their work, they embrace a large number of auxiliaries, representing nearly every conference in the State. Their mission-circles are very efficient. One, consisting of only twelve members, contributed fifty-six dollars to the Constantinople Home. The church at Deer Isle, which last year celebrated its centennial, began its second century by organizing an auxiliary. Many of them observe monthly meetings, at which contributions are paid in.

The CANADIAN BRANCH, reported by Mrs. Brown, has for its chief aim the awakening of an interest in foreign missions where there has heretofore been so little. Organized as the Montreal Auxiliary four years ago, with twenty members, their number has increased to one hundred; and their success has been greater than they dared hope, — not so much in dollars and cents, as in developing an interest in the work, especially with mothers, many of whom now feel that the richest gifts they can bestow are their daughters for the foreign field. They have as yet but one auxiliary; but interest has been aroused in other places, and they hope, by 1876, to report several more. "One of the most pleasing features of the work," said Mrs. Brown, "is the juvenile missionary society, — 'Workers for Christ,' they call themselves. Each child is furnished with a bank, which is opened in their homes, on Christmas morning, before family worship. It is the child's Christmas gift to the Lord; and as the little one kneels at the family altar while the parent asks the Father in heaven to accept the gift, and bless it to heathen souls, can we doubt the influence of that hour on the heart and life of

the child? May God's Spirit so come down upon us all during this week of prayer, that as we go, with new zeal and love for the work, to our various homes, our children may learn to love, as never before, the work of foreign missions!"

Mrs. Hooker, President of the SPRINGFIELD BRANCH, said, that, one year ago, the Woman's Board had but two auxiliaries in the entire county, — one of which was in Ludlow, and the other comprised the six churches of Springfield. Through the efforts of the latter in interesting pastors and members of other churches, there are now twenty-one auxiliaries and several mission-circles, which constitute the Branch; and their work has the recognition and indorsement of the Hampden County Conference. A great increase of missionary spirit is manifest; and the young societies are so flourishing as to warrant the expectation of enlarged contributions in the year to come, while the reflex influence upon themselves has been most happy.

Mrs. S. C. Brownell, Secretary, brought the greetings of the HARTFORD BRANCH to the parent society, as the youngest child. Sensible of the difficulties to be encountered, and the obstacles which hinder the work even in Christian lands, they feel that they can accomplish nothing, except through earnest effort, and a living faith in Him who holds all hearts in his hands. An increase of missionary interest is manifest in the city churches, especially among the young people, giving promise of better things to come. At a quarterly meeting addressed by Drs. Bush and Lindley, many were led to feel that "they had no jewels too precious for Christ, and the most they could do for Him who had redeemed them by his precious blood would be to give themselves and their children to carry the news of redeeming love to a perishing world."

SOUTH MIDDLESEX CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION reported

by Mrs. Richardson. For months past earnest women within the bounds of the South Middlesex Conference of Churches have often conferred together ; and, as a result of this spirit of inquiry, a woman's missionary meeting was held in October last in connection with the session of the conference at South Framingham, and an association was formed. "If the large attendance and enthusiasm manifested at that meeting may be regarded as an indication of the heartiness with which the work is to be carried forward, we may expect the best results ; and it is hoped that new bonds of sympathy may be formed among the sister churches of the conference, and that we may stimulate and assist each other in answering the great question, 'Lord, what wilt thou have me do?'" Mrs. Richardson also read an interesting letter from Miss Rice, for twenty years a missionary in Persia.

A paper on the "Importance of Prayer" was presented by Mrs. S. B. Pratt, and another, upon "Home Work," by Mrs. Lemuel Gulliver, both of which will be published in full. A solo by Miss Gould, and prayer by Mrs. Thompson, closed the meeting.

SECOND DAY.

Sixty minutes were never shorter, or more sweetly laden as they passed, than those spent in devotional exercises at the Park-street Vestry on the morning of Wednesday. In quick succession missionaries and others — in words that burned with the eloquence of a heavenly inspiration, and prayers that were taught by the Spirit — so exalted the tone of feeling, that we fain would have tarried in the hallowed place, which seemed just on the verge of heaven. As the voice of the President ceased in the closing prayer, silently and reluctantly the audience retired, and, when re-assembled in the church, united in singing, —

"Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove," &c.

After scripture-reading by Mrs. Bowker, prayer was offered by Mrs. Burdett Hart; and the opening address was made by Mrs. Chandler of the Madura mission. She said, "It was twenty years before we had any access to the heathen women: it was impossible to get among the upper classes on account of caste. Among the poorer classes some little girls were obtained for the schools, by paying them as much as they could earn, besides clothing them. This was done for many years: now we require a fee from all who attend mission boarding-schools, and we have made so much progress, that we have girls' schools in all the stations." Mrs. Chandler gave a very interesting account of a woman whom she visited once a week in the jail, till she was forbidden by the authorities. Brutally treated by her husband, the woman had thrown her three children into the well, and had been imprisoned for life. As Mrs. Chandler conversed with her, with streaming eyes she would say, "Tell me more, tell me more!" But she may hear no more, since the authorities have interfered to prevent the visits. Two years since, a learned woman sent for Mrs. Chandler, saying she had bought a Bible, and wished her to read it to her; and, after hearing, she would explain it beautifully to the others. This was the beginning of their zenana work; and now there are two hundred houses, where herself or Miss Sisson may go once a week; and they employ three Bible-women, who labor six or seven hours daily. Frequently the men are gratified by the improvement of the women; although one man complained that his wife did not make so good curry since she had learned to read.

Miss Park of Bennington, Vt., said, that, one year ago, she was with Mr. and Mrs. Snow at Micronesia, where the field is large, and the laborers few. Only a visitor herself she learned the alphabet, that she might assist in teaching. They are anxious to have assistants; so that some already

there may be released for a new station. She had given their message at the Rutland meeting, and now renewed the request, in their behalf, for two missionaries for the Pacific Isles. She would only say to any who may be pondering this invitation, "Heaven is just as near to the islands of the Pacific as to this enlightened city of Boston."

Miss West, after giving in detail the story of two remarkable conversions in high life among the Armenians of Turkey, closed an interesting address with the following words:—

"What means this great uprising, this wonderful awakening and surprising activity, among the Christian women of America in behalf of foreign missions; the societies springing up all over the face of our land, from the golden gates of the Pacific, to the storm-beaten coasts of the Atlantic? What mean the thousands and thousands of dollars pouring into the treasury of the Board from the auxiliaries, and the hundreds of little rills swelling the resistless tide from the children's offerings? What means all this? Ah, my friends! it means a purified church. It means that Zion shall arise and shine; her light being come, and the glory of the Lord arisen upon her. It means that the children of these mothers are being trained to an intelligent and loving Christian stewardship; that in the far future there shall be a REDEEMED EARTH, over which Christ shall reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords; over which Heaven shall lovingly bend, and angels shall again sing the song, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men;' and earth shall reply, 'The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.' 'Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.' Amen and amen."

Mrs. Hooker moved a vote of thanks to the proprietors

of Park-street Church for the use of their house for the two-days' sessions of this society.

Mrs. Burdett Hart desired to express thanks to those who had received guests ; and, on motion of Mrs. Thompson, the meeting was dissolved.

It is a matter of gratification and encouragement, that a larger number of auxiliaries were represented by delegates than at any previous meeting ; and the attendance and evident interest were well sustained throughout the sessions, culminating in the children's meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday. The collations each day in Pilgrim Hall, and the reception given to delegates and missionaries on the evening of Tuesday, afforded pleasant opportunities for social intercourse.

MRS. J. A. COPP, *Rec. Sec.*

WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS.

RECEIPTS FROM DEC. 18 TO DEC. 31, 1874.

MRS. BENJAMIN E. BATES, TREASURER.

MAINE.		
<i>Norway.</i> —Emma F. Holt's Miss'y Box,	\$1 00	
Total,	\$1 00	
VERMONT.		
<i>Fairlee.</i> —Mrs. W. H. Kibbey,	\$4 40	
Total,	\$4 40	
MASSACHUSETTS.		
<i>Auburndale.</i> —Aux., of which \$25 by Mrs. M. P. Pearson to const. herself L. M.,	\$32 00	<i>Framingham.</i> —Aux., to const. L. M. Miss Annie E. Johnson, \$25 00
<i>Boston.</i> —Miss E. A. Nickerson,	2 00	<i>Haverhill.</i> —Centre Ch., Mrs. Anna M. Swan, \$2.50; Mrs. A. M. Swan, \$2 00,
<i>Boston, East.</i> —"Buds of Promise,"	3 75	<i>Hyde Park.</i> —Aux., of which \$25 to const. L. M. Mrs. Mary F. Davis,
<i>Boston Highlands.</i> —Walnut Ave. Ch., Mrs. M. B. Fifield,	3 00	<i>Lee.</i> —Young Ladies' Miss Circle, for pupil in Miss Payson's sch.,
<i>Brockton.</i> —"Messenger Birds,"	5 00	<i>Littleton.</i> —Ladies' Miss Circle,
<i>Chelsea.</i> —Gracie B. Allen's Miss'y Bank,	5 00	<i>Lynn.</i> —Aux.,
		<i>Melrose.</i> —Aux., for native teacher under Miss Closson,
		<i>Oxford.</i> —Mrs. A. L. Joslyn, with prev. contri. for B. R. in Van,
		<i>Paxton.</i> —Aux.,
		<i>Pepperell.</i> —Mrs. Oliver's S. S. Cl., with prev. contri., to const. L. M. Mrs. Lucinda Bowers Oliver,
		<i>Plymouth.</i> —"Mary Allerton Miss. Circle" for two out-stations near Harpoot,
		4 50
		36 00
		40 00
		1 00
		19 00
		65 00
		11 00
		20 50
		10 00
		50 00

<i>Reading.</i> — Aux.,	\$16 00
<i>Southampton.</i> — “Bearers of Light,”	110 00
<i>South Egremont.</i> — Cong. S. S., for pupil in Dacotah Home,	50 00
<i>Spencer.</i> — “Hillside Workers,”	5 00
<i>Springfield Branch.</i> — Miss H. W. Buckingham, Treas., Olivet Ch., \$20.50; South Ch., \$10.20; Memorial Ch., \$33.59; Sanford St. Ch., \$5.42; Branch, \$86.30; Westfield, 1st Ch., \$102; West Springfield, Park St. Ch., \$31.99; Wilbraham Cong'l Ch., \$10; Towards Mrs. Gulick's sal'y, \$300; Hope Chapel, “Earnest Workers,” Christmas offerings, \$2.50,	302 50
<i>Taunton.</i> — Aux., to const. L. M.'s, Mrs. Mary L. Newman, Mrs. Evelyn R. Dean,	50 00
<i>West Newton.</i> — 2d Cong'l Ch. S. S., Mr. William Bosworth's Bible Cl., to const. L. M. Mrs. Martha L. Patrick,	25 00
<i>Weymouth and Braintree.</i> — Aux., add'l,	8 00
<i>Williamstown.</i> — Aux., add'l,	2 00
<i>Worcester.</i> — Mrs. M. C. Spaulding,	5 00
<i>Wrentham.</i> — Aux.,	40
Total,	\$946 25

C. Home Building-Fund.

<i>Amherst.</i> — Aux., towards room, to be called the “Ballantine Room,”	\$132 65
<i>West Roxbury.</i> — Mission-Circle for dormitory,	200 00

CONNECTICUT.

<i>Darien.</i> — Two little penny gatherers,	\$1 00
<i>Hartford.</i> — Aux., Centre Ch., of which \$25, by a friend, to const. L. M. Miss Abby Montague, and \$25 by a friend, to const. L. M. Mrs. Prof. C. O. Thompson, and \$25 by a friend, to const. L. M. Mrs. L. C. Fitch, \$317; Pearl St. Ch., Aux., a friend, \$5; Berlin, Aux., \$60; \$60; Hampton, Aux., \$7.15,	389 15
<i>Hebron.</i> — Aux.,	31 00
<i>New London.</i> — Schaffler Miss'y Soc'y, \$230; Mrs. James L. Lathrop, \$1.40,	231 40
<i>Rockville.</i> — Tolland Co. F. M. S.,	18 75
<i>South Windsor.</i> — A friend, to const. L. M. Miss Susanna Huntington Willey,	25 00
Total,	\$696 30

NEW YORK.

<i>Flushing, L. I.</i> — “Bird's Nest,” \$2.51; “McGregor Hall Gatherers,” \$17.49; Balance of Fair Money, \$22, of which \$25 to const. L. M. Miss Anna Parsons,	\$42 00
<i>Franklin.</i> — First Cong. S. S.,	15 00
<i>Malone.</i> — Mrs. Laura D. Colton,	1 00
<i>Smyrna.</i> — First Cong. Ch. S. S. for pupil in Harpoot,	40 00
<i>Walton.</i> — Aux.,	8 68
Total,	\$106 68
General Funds,	\$1,754 63
C. Home Building-Fund,	332 65
“Life and Light,”	495 00
“Echoes,”	45 68
Weekly Pledge,	5 35
Leaflets,	3 95
Total,	\$2,637 26

RECEIPTS FROM JAN. 1 TO JAN. 18, 1875.

MAINE.

<i>Maine Branch.</i> — Mrs. Woodbury S. Dana, Treas., Falmouth, Aux., \$15; Freeport, “Buds of Promise,” \$3; South Freeport, “Snow Birds,” \$3; Pownal, two ladies, \$1; Col. by Mrs. H. Ilsley, \$2.50; Cong'l Ch, Union Ladies' Miss. Circle, \$5; “Little Workers,” \$3; New Gloucester, Aux., to const. L. M. Miss Lizzie M. Bailey, \$25.50; Thomaston, “Echoes,” \$10; Deering, Aux., \$4; Caribou, Aux., of the Aroostook Co. Conference, \$10,	\$82 00
Total,	\$82 00

C. Home Building-Fund.

<i>Maine Branch.</i> — Gorham, Aux.,	\$45 00
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NEW HAMPSHIRE.

<i>New Hampshire Branch.</i> — Miss Abby E. McIntire, Treas., Hampton, Aux., toward pupil in Mrs. Edwards's sch., \$15; Dunbarton, Aux., \$11.15; Campton, Aux., of which \$25 to const. L. M. Mrs. Seldon C. Willey, \$34.63; Francestown, Aux., \$7; Lyme, Aux., towards sal'y of Miss S. F. Norris, \$25; Amherst, Miss S. R. Clark, \$13; Exeter, Miss Cora L. Kent, for Mrs. Capron's native teacher,
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\$30; Nashua, \$16.25; Pearl St. S. S., \$26.59; New Ipswich, Aux., with prev. contri. to const. L. M. Miss M. E. Lock, \$23; Claremont, Aux., \$26; Exeter, Aux., \$20; Atkinson, Aux., \$12; Pennies from a departed boy, \$1.15,	\$260 77
<i>Fishersville.</i> — Mrs. M. A. W. Fiske,	4 40
Total,	\$265 17

C. Home Building-Fund.

<i>New Hampshire Branch.</i> — Greenland S. S., in memory of Mrs. John Porter Weeks, \$10, and Miss Charlotte Ambrose, \$10, and Miss Lucy Holt Pickering, \$10, towards the schoolroom; Portsmouth, Mrs. Ryder, \$2,	32 00
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VERMONT.

<i>Vermont Branch.</i> — Mrs. George H. Fox, Treas., New Haven, Aux., to const. L. M. Mrs. M. E. G. Leavenworth, \$25; Orwell, Aux., of which \$50 to const. L. M.'s Mrs. L. M. Severance, Mrs. M. C. Rice, \$74.58; Christmas offering of the Mission-Circles of Rutland, \$8.21,	107 79
<i>Windham.</i> — Mrs. James Stearns,	1 00
Total,	\$108 79

MASSACHUSETTS.

<i>Andover.</i> — Mrs. John Smith,	\$10 00
<i>Ashfield.</i> — Girls' Miss. Circle,	15 00
<i>Ashland.</i> — Mrs. S. N. Cutler,	10 00
<i>Barre.</i> — Edith's Miss'y Box,	1 40
<i>Boston.</i> — Mrs. Freeman Allen, \$200; Mrs. Reed, \$3; South African Ferns sold at Annual Meeting, \$3.50; a friend, \$20; Mrs. W. J. Judson, \$5; Miss M. E. Dicks, \$1; Park St. Ch., Mrs. G. W. Colburn, \$10; Berkeley St. Ch., Ladies' Weekly Pledge, \$9; Shawmut Ch., Mrs. C. C. Coffin, \$1; Union Ch., Mrs. Chas. Scudder, to const. L. M.'s her two little grand-daughters, \$50,	302 50
<i>Boston Highlands.</i> — Eliot Ch., Aux., of which \$50 from Miss Elizabeth Davis, to const. L. M.'s Mrs. C. W. Hill, Miss Martha A. Thompson, \$76.50; "Eliot Star Circle," with prev. contri. to const. L. M. Miss Fannie M. Ferguson, \$12.50,	89 00
<i>Brookline.</i> — Harvard Ch., Mr.	

Langdon S. Ward, to const. L. M. Nellie Spalding Ward,	\$25 00
<i>Cambridge.</i> — "Shepard Band of Little Workers," for pupil in Mrs. Edwards's sch.,	30 00
<i>Cambridgeport.</i> — Mrs. Edward Stevens, to const. herself L. M.,	25 00
<i>Charlestown.</i> — Winthrop Ch.,	36 73
<i>Chelsea.</i> — Mrs. Reed's S. S. Cl., for B. R. in Ahmednuggur, \$40; Chestnut St. Ch., Mrs. R. H. Allen, Misses M. E. and S. R. Brooks, \$3,	43 00
<i>Concord.</i> — S. S. Miss'y Asso., for pupil in Mrs. Bissell's sch.,	30 00
<i>Easthampton.</i> — Aux.,	119 80
<i>Foxboro'.</i> — Aux., Mrs. Daniel Carpenter, to const. L. M. Mrs. Alice E. Prescott,	25 00
<i>Grafton.</i> — Aux.,	20 00
<i>Grantville.</i> — Sallie, Fannie, and Helen,	5 00
<i>Groveland.</i> — Miss M. A. Ricker,	2 00
<i>Hanover.</i> — Aux.,	5 00
<i>Hatfield.</i> — "Hatfield Gleaners,"	15 00
<i>Hinsdale.</i> — Aux., of which \$50 to const. L. M.'s Mrs. Polly Butts, Mrs. Loren Clark,	68 20
<i>Holden.</i> — Martha Moore,	2 00
<i>Holliston.</i> — A friend,	5 35
<i>Leominster.</i> — Aux.,	26 10
<i>Lynn.</i> — North Cong. Ch.,	38 00
<i>Marblehead.</i> — "Cheerful Workers," quarterly pay't towards Miss Proctor's sch.,	6 25
<i>Medfield.</i> — Miss M. D. Chanery,	1 00
<i>Melrose.</i> — Young Ladies' Miss. Soc'y of Cong. Ch., for teacher in the Misses Ely's sch.,	53 80
<i>Northboro'.</i> — E. M. Small,	2 00
<i>North Brookfield.</i> — "North Brookfield Helpers," towards Mrs. Mellen's sal'y,	125 00
<i>North Weymouth.</i> — George H. French,	59
<i>Reading.</i> — Aux.,	10 00
<i>Roxbury, West.</i> — Aux.,	12 00
<i>Salem.</i> — Young Ladies' Miss'y Circle, for sal'y of Miss Ellen M. Pierce,	380 00
<i>Somerville.</i> — Broadway Cong'l Ch., Aux.,	69 18
<i>Southbridge.</i> — Mrs. S. Marsh,	1 00
<i>Topsfield.</i> — Aux.,	33 00
<i>Ware.</i> — East Cong. Ch., \$63.55; Mrs. H. M. Hyde and Miss S. R. Sage, to const. L. M. Mrs. W. G. Tuttle, \$25,	88 55
<i>Waverly.</i> — Mrs. Daniel Butler,	1 00
<i>West Hampton.</i> — Aux., of which \$50 to const. L. M.'s Mrs. William E. Lyman, Mrs. Joseph Lanman,	51 35
Total,	\$1,783 80

C. Home Building-Fund.

<i>Boston.</i> — The Matron's Room, to be called the Sarah L. Bowker Room,	\$350 00
<i>Brookline.</i> — Mr. and Mrs. Langdon S. Ward to const. L. M. their little daughter, Mary Isabelle Ward,	25 00
<i>Cambridgeport.</i> — Cong'l Ch., towards dormitory,	130 00
<i>Fall River.</i> — First Cong'l Ch., for dormitory,	200 00
<i>Medway.</i> — "The Gleaners," towards the Medway Room,	70 00
<i>Peabody.</i> — "Morning Star Miss. Circle,"	180 00
<i>Walpole.</i> — Aux., towards dormitory,	52 00

RHODE ISLAND.

<i>Rhode Island Branch</i> — Miss Anna T. White, Treas., Providence, Beneficent Ch., Mrs. J. G. Vose to const. L. M. Miss Charlotte R. Vose,	25 00
Total,	\$25 00

CONNECTICUT.

<i>Bridgewater.</i> — John B. Doolittle,	\$12 50
<i>Cromwell.</i> — Cong. Ch.,	3 38
<i>Griswold.</i> — Aux.,	13 40
<i>Goshen.</i> — Cong. S. S., for pupil in Mrs. Edwards's sch.,	30 00
<i>Hartford Branch.</i> — Mrs. Chas. W. Jewell, Treas., Mrs. John Olmstead, for China mission, \$10; Pearl St. Ch., Aux., \$132; Hartford Centre Ch., add'l, \$6; Windsor Ave. Ch., \$41.85; Rockville, Aux., \$8; West Hartland, Aux., \$10; Poquonock, Aux., \$12; Glastenbury, Aux., \$177.50,	397 35
<i>New London</i> — Second Cong. Ch., \$101.10; First Cong. Ch., \$56,	157 10
<i>Orange.</i> — Miss Mary A. Walker,	2 00
Total,	\$615 73

NEW YORK.

<i>Flushing, L.I.</i> — Aux., with prev. contri. to const. L. M. Mrs. S. T. Gooding, \$20; "McGregor Hall Gatherers," of which \$30 for pupil in Miss Townshend's sch., and \$100 for the Madura Mission, \$130,	\$150 00
<i>Gloversville.</i> — Aux., result of Apron Fair and Oyster Supper,	157 25

<i>Malone</i> — Miss J. C. Daggett,	\$3 00
<i>Rensselaer Falls.</i> — Young Ladies' S. S. Cl., 69 cts.; Mrs. E. M. Rockwood, \$2.21,	2 90
<i>Rochester.</i> — Plymouth Ch., Miss. Band, for pupil in the Harpoof Fem. Sem.,	40 00
<i>Watertown.</i> — Miss R. F. Hubbard, \$2.80; Mrs. S. H. Morgan, \$1.50,	4 30
Total,	\$357 45

C. Home Building-Fund.

<i>Mount Morris.</i> — Mrs. Julia McNair,	\$4 00
OHIO.	
<i>Windham.</i> — Young Ladies' Miss. Circle, towards sal'y of Miss Closson,	\$40 50
Total,	\$40 50

TENNESSEE.

<i>Memphis.</i> — Miss M. E. Barnes, towards pupil in the Harpoof Fem. Sem.,	\$25 00
Total,	\$25 00

WISCONSIN.

<i>Princeton.</i> — A friend,	\$1 00
Total,	\$1 00

IOWA.

<i>Council Bluffs.</i> — Mrs. Barbor E. Green, \$2; Mrs. H. S. De Forest, \$1,	\$3 00
Total,	\$3 00

CANADA.

<i>Perth, Ontario.</i> — Mrs. Dr. Rugg,	\$3 50
Total,	\$3 50

General Funds,	\$3,310 94
C. Home Building-Fund,	1,088 00
"Life and Light,"	620 15
"Echoes,"	31 20
Postage,	307 67
Weekly Pledge,	14 95
Leaflets,	3 20
Interest on temporary investments,	180 00
Interest on Baldwin Fund,	270 00
Total,	\$5,826 11

MISS EMMA CARRUTH, *Asst. Treas.*

Department of the Interior.

CHINA.

LETTER FROM MISS PORTER.

YÜCHO, Oct. 8, 1874.

THE months since my trip to Pacho have been passed in the busy quiet of home, where I was happy in venturing to spend my summer vacation. I was, of course, relieved from school, and did not try to study very hard, but took up light work, — the translation of a story for the children, and the reading of a Chinese novel, which, for minuteness of detail, and grandiloquence of style, might be considered of the Sir Charles Grandison school. I have never spent so restful a summer in China, nor felt more ready for autumn work.

A TOUR.

Two weeks ago last Tuesday my brother and I left Peking for Kalgan. This is the most northerly station in our mission (about one hundred and forty miles north-west of the capital), and is now occupied by the families of Mr. Gulick, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Sprague, together with Mr. Thompson and Miss Diament. It is just upon the borders of Mongolia; Mr. Gulick and Mr. Sprague being especially engaged in work for the Mongols. The route from Peking to this point lies through a hilly region; and part of the way is impassible for carts, so that we ride in mule litters. These are like large, rough sedan-chairs, carried by mules instead of men. If the animals keep step, the motion is

not disagreeable ; and, even though they do not, you are spared the jolting of the cart, having in its stead a succession of fitful jerks, which at first incline you to laugh, and afterward, if you are tired and weak, may incline you to cry. We were neither tired nor weak, however ; and as the mules, for the most part, plodded on steadily, we had four very pleasant days together in our two and a half by five feet box. We carried with us tea, sugar, bread, and a few little conveniences for the table ; so that we were not reduced to the use of chop-sticks, nor to entire dependence upon Chinese fare at the inns. At Kalgan we found a warm welcome awaiting us from the dear missionary circle, and spent a number of days very delightfully with them.

VISIT TO SHWEI-CHWAN.

Last Thursday we bade good-by to the friends at Kalgan, and, accompanied by Miss Diamant, set out for this point, which lies almost directly west of Peking, but is not easily reached, except by this circuitous route.

We came by cart, reaching Shwei-chwan (water spring) Saturday evening. There we found, as we had anticipated, Helper Feng, whose home it is, and who had been spending a few days with his old mother, preparing to return to the training-school at Tungcho. There are four native Christians in the village ; and we spent a pleasant sabbath with them, holding three services, and devoting the intervals to receiving crowds of curious women, who flocked in to look at the foreigners. This is a busy season ; and most of the women were working in the fields, and too much hurried to stop longer with us than simply to gratify their curiosity as to our ages, dress, and relation to each other. No one seemed interested in any thing else which we said ; and the day would have been unprofitable, so far

as our work was concerned, but for the opportunity it gave of teaching old Mother Feng, who knows only the simplest rudiments of the truth. My brother and the helper had far more to encourage them among the men. A number listened intelligently, and remained for some hours, talking about the religion of Jesus.

ARRIVAL AT YÜCHO.

On Monday we rode the eighty *li* (about twenty-three miles), and reached here just at dusk. We found the mission premises in pretty good order, and in a few hours established ourselves, and set up our modest housekeeping. The house is a Chinese structure, mostly built of mud, although there are one or two patches of brick wall. It contains quite a number of small rooms, and not a few conveniences contrived by Dr. Treat, Mr. Pierson, and Mr. Goodrich, when it was their home. Since they left, there has been no missionary resident here, but frequent visits have been made by one and another; and it is hoped that it may either be again taken up as a permanent station, or worked from Kalgan by the brethren there. When Mrs. Williams and I were here, three years ago, we had crowds of visitors daily; and we anticipated finding all the work that Miss Diament and I could do in the fortnight we plan spending here: but, during the few days already past, very few have been in to see us, and our work has been confined chiefly to instructing a

FAMILY OF CHRISTIANS

who live next door, and own this place. They are three pleasant women, — old Grandmother Tsai, her daughter-in-law, and the wife of the son of the latter, whose father also is a Christian. I have been trying this morning to persuade the two older women to allow the young wife to

go with us to her old home, forty *li* distant, where we hope to spend the sabbath. We shall return on Monday ; but I doubt if I can prevail upon them to allow her to go, for they are greatly incensed because the father has failed in some point of etiquette in his treatment of the family. Mothers-in-law are *despots*, young wives, *slaves*, in China. We have had a few visitors and a few applications for medicine ; but the people are certainly less eager to see us than before. However, we do not feel that the visit is in vain, if we are enabled to strengthen those who already believe, or teach them more of God's word, or spend a sabbath with them in Christian worship.

OPIUM-EATING.

One of the saddest things we have seen on our journey is the proof, visible on every hand, of the bondage to opium, under which multitudes of the people live. Pallid, haggard faces, wild and restless, or dull and lifeless eyes, are the too evident tokens of slavery to this vice ; while the sickening fumes of opium-smoke pervade the atmosphere at the inns, in the city streets, and come to us from the opening doors of little isolated cabins by the roadside.

COUNTRY WOMEN.

The ignorance and degradation of the women is more apparent here than in the city. They work constantly in the fields, and acquire a roughness of demeanor very unlike the simulated quietness and repose of the Chinese ideal. At the same time they seem to me more likable than the women I meet in Peking, more genuine and responsive, but, oh, so *low* ! Sometimes I think I'll try to tell you about them ; but my pen refuses to write the things I see and hear, almost as if my own womanhood would be degraded by the repetition. When I see their homes, and

remember what their lives have been, what influences have surrounded them from childhood, I wonder not at their degradation, but that any thing true, pure, and lovely, is left in them; and in spite of filth, poverty, cruelty, and falsehood, there are yet womanly traits. There are mothers who cling to their children with real affection, sisters who love each other, and the possibility of much good under all the evil. Dear sisters, let us, to whom God has given so much, pray more earnestly, and work more earnestly, for these *lost* souls!

My remarks about the coarseness of the women do not apply to those of Yücho, who are educated in as careful regard to propriety as any in China. They pride themselves especially upon their small feet; and at no other place have I seen them so tightly bound.

Home Department.

FROM A MOTHER IN ISRAEL.

AN old lady, over eighty, confined at home by the infirmities of age, but with a heart warm with love for the Master, and interest in his cause, writes thus to her own auxiliary society:—

“I present my annual contribution with thanksgiving to God that he has spared my life another year, and given me the sweet privilege of casting my humble offering *once more* into your treasury. Although, shut up as I am, I cannot judge of the ‘signs of the times,’ yet I have a feeling, a deep impression, that there is to be a great impulse given to all missionary efforts throughout the world. Go on,

my dear sisters, in your labors of love, and the harvest-time will come, the fruit will be gathered and garnered. The time is short, and the laborers few: therefore be diligent. I think of some dear women with limited means and large families, who struggle hard to lay aside enough for their monthly contribution. God knows it all. He knows where there has been self-denial, and will reward accordingly.

“I pray that the Holy Spirit may be with you at your meeting, guiding and directing in all your exercises, shedding his sweet influence on every heart, comforting the desponding, and inspiring confidence and hope in the great Master.”

M. L. K.

A WORD FROM AN AUXILIARY.

MISS RANKIN visited us last summer; and, early in the autumn, two ladies were appointed to visit every family in the church, whatever the circumstances, not urging any one to give, but merely stating the object. This they have been doing as rapidly as family cares would permit. The work is only about half done; and twenty-six dollars have been collected, more pledged, and quite a number of subscriptions to “Life and Light” obtained. Where ladies felt that they could not pledge more than fifty cents a year, they have been advised to take “Life and Light” instead of becoming members of the society, in the belief, that, the more they know of the work, the more they will feel that they must give something. It has seemed to these visitors that God has really been going before them, that the work was only waiting to be done.

Other workers had felt that we had already undertaken all the benevolent work we could carry, without drawing from some object already on hand; but it is not probable

that one dollar collected or pledged has been taken from any other work. Many, particularly young mothers unable to leave home for benevolent work, have rejoiced that this opportunity was brought to them.

A poor family was visited where the parents were deaf and dumb. The joy with which a dollar was pledged, although barefooted children were standing around, would have brought tears to any eyes. A lady with a large family of children, and workmen on a farm, said laughingly, that, not having work enough of her own to do, she had just earned a dollar, her first one, which had been paid her a few minutes before, and she rejoiced to give it.

RECEIPTS OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE INTERIOR.

FROM DEC. 15, 1874 TO JAN. 15, 1875.

MRS. FRANCIS BRADLEY, TREASURER.

OHIO.	<i>Vermillion.</i> —Aux.,	\$5 32
<i>Cleveland Heights.</i> —Aux., Mrs. F. Lamson, Treas.,	Total,	\$437 66
\$25 00	INDIANA.	
<i>Columbus.</i> —Aux., for one share in the Japan Home, Mrs. W. A. Mahoney, Treas.,	<i>Angola.</i> —Aux., Mrs. E. C. Andrus, Treas.,	\$8 00
25 00	<i>Indianapolis.</i> —May Flower Ch., Aux., Mary E. Bence, Sec.,	8 25
<i>Elyria.</i> —Aux., Mrs. Geo. H. Ely, Treas., \$59.68; 1st Pres. S S., Mrs. T. L. Nelson, Treas., \$40.00,	Total,	\$16 25
99 68	MICHIGAN.	
<i>Hudson.</i> —Aux., for Bible-reader in the Madura Mission, Mrs. Brewster, Treas.,	<i>Grand Blanc.</i> —Aux., of which \$25 is to const. Mrs. G. R. Parker a L. M., Miss Emma Embury, Sec.,	\$40 00
5 43	<i>Grand Rapids.</i> —Aux., for Bible-reader in Nicomedia, Mrs. L. Immen, Treas.,	47 00
<i>Lodi.</i> —Aux., for the Japan Home, Mrs. L. K. Robbins, Treas.,	<i>Hudson.</i> —Aux., for Bible-reader in Marash, Mrs A. A. Finney, Treas.,	20 00
8 50	<i>Litchfield.</i> —“Shining Lights” Mission-Circle, C. A. Turrell, Treas.,	4 00
<i>Marietta.</i> —Aux., for one share in the Japan Home,	<i>Newaygo.</i> —Aux., for pupil in	
25 00		
<i>Oberlin.</i> —“A friend who prays for the Japan Home,” to complete one share in the home,		
5 00		
<i>Oxford.</i> —Female Seminary, Aux., by Miss Peabody,		
50 23		
<i>Painesville.</i> —Aux., for salary of Miss Parsons, Mrs. Beardslee, Treas.,		
183 50		
<i>Sheffield.</i> —Mrs. Kinney,		5 00

Erzroom, Mrs. L. F. Skianer Treas.,	\$10 00
Owosso.—Aux., for school at Talas,	20 29
South Boston.—Aux., Mrs. S. McKinney, Treas.,	12 00
Vermontville.—Aux., for salary of Mrs. Watkins, Mrs. C. E. Hammond, Treas.,	40 00
Total,	\$193 29

ILLINOIS.

Champaign.—Aux., for scholarship in the Samokov school,	\$10 00
Chesterfield.—Aux., \$15.50; Earnest Workers, \$21.05, L. M. Lawson, Sec.,	36 55
Chicago.—New England Ch., Aux., for salary of Miss Chapin, \$68.45; 47th St. Ch., Aux., Mrs. Purington, Treas., \$20.55; 1st Ch., Aux., for Miss Patrick's salary, Mrs. Whittlesey, Treas., \$85.26,	174 26
Evanston.—Aux., for salary of Miss Porter, \$94.20; a friend, for the Japan Home, \$5.00,	99 20
Fremont.—Aux., Mrs. E. D. Dean, Treas.,	7 00
Geneva.—Aux., Mrs. Alice E. Coe, Treas.,	11 00
Hoyleton.—Aux., Mrs. Nellie L. Gaylord, Treas.,	5 75
La Salle.—Aux., Mrs. E. B. Treat, Treas.,	15 00
Nilwood.—Corinth E. Rider,	1 00
Payson.—Aux., Miss Ellen Thompson,	10 00
Peoria.—Aux., Mrs. Agnes M. Hand, Treas.,	10 00
Quincey.—Aux., for salary of Miss Evans, Mrs. E. Littlefield, Treas., and to const. Mrs. Sarah B. Prentiss and Mrs. Rachel A. Wygant L. M.'s,	50 00
Richmond.—Aux., Mrs. J. F. Douglass, Treas.,	10 00
Richview.—Persis Denton,	5 00
Rockford.—Mrs. Harriet A. Sanford, for the Japan Home,	25 00
Waverly.—Aux. for salary of Miss Evans, Mrs. Fanny A. Thayer, Treas.,	19 00
	3 40
Total,	\$492 16

WISCONSIN.

Fox Lake.—Wis. Fem. College, Eva Gould, Sec.,	\$7 00
Madison.—Aux., for the village schools in Cesaræa, Mrs. Alex. Kerr, Treas.,	18 00

EVANSTON, Jan. 15, 1875.

Mt. Sterling.—Gay's Mills S. S. for pupil in Miss Porter's school, by Mrs. T. W. Gay,	\$4 00
Platteville.—Aux., Mrs. Ella Marshall, Treas.,	31 00
Ripon College.—Aux., for the Japan Home, Miss A. A. Sargent, Treas.,	10 00
Royalton.—"Happy Girls," R. McGloughlin, Treas.,	5 00
Whitewater.—Aux., for salary of Miss Taylor, Mrs. R. Coburn, Treas.,	12 00
Total,	\$87 00

IOWA.

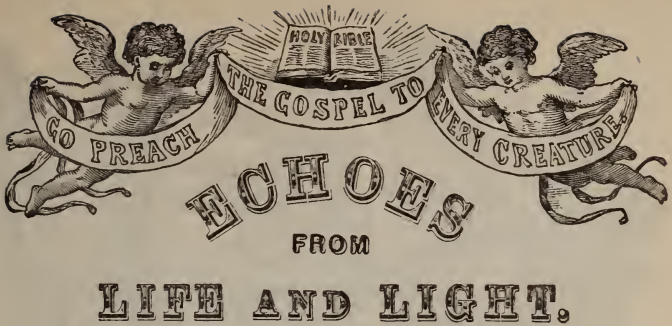
Burlington.—Aux., L. C. Derby, Treas., \$10.80; "Little Workers," Mrs. C. L. Perry, \$24.00,	\$34 80
Des Moines.—"Prairie Chickens," for one share in the Japan Home, Bessie H. Hitchcock, Treas.,	25 00
Lakeville.—"A few ladies," by Mrs. Upton,	2 00
Marion.—Aux., to complete the life-membership of Mrs. A. M. Bissel, Mrs. B. H. Nott, Treas.,	7 17
Muscatine.—Aux., for salary of Miss Day, Miss Emma Olds, Sec.,	75 00
Osage.—"Woman's Cent Soc.," Mrs. T. O. Douglass, Treas.,	4 73
"A thank offering from a lady, for the conversion of her husband," to be applied to the Japan Home,	30 75
Total,	\$179 45

MINNESOTA.

Clearwater.—Aux., for salary of Miss Lindley, Mrs. M. M. Walker, Treas.,	\$10.00
Minneapolis.—Aux., for salary of Miss Lindley, Mrs. Henry Plant, Treas., \$65.02; Plymouth Ch. S. S., \$35.00,	100 02
St. Paul.—Aux., for salary of Miss Lindley, Mrs. W. H. Howard, Sec.,	25 00
Total,	\$135 02

DAKOTA.

Yankton.—"Willing Hearts," by Mrs. S. F. Ward,	\$7 00
Total,	\$7 00
Total,	\$1,547 83



MARCH

PUBLISHED BY THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS.

1875.

PEACOCK WORSHIPPERS IN INDIA.

BY MRS. H. J. BRUCE.



IN the picture on the opposite page, dear children, you may see some heathen men and women gathered together in a grove of palm-trees. The expression on their faces shows how dark their minds must be; and yet it seems hard to believe that they have assembled to pay divine honors to the peacocks who live there. Perhaps they think that the souls of some of their friends who have died have come back to earth in the form of peacocks; or they may be hoping that they themselves may be born again as beautiful birds, instead of ugly reptiles. You may know that many Hindoos believe that the souls of men, after death, pass through the bodies of different animals, beautiful or disagreeable, according to their good or bad deeds; and sometimes things become so mixed in their minds, that they almost believe a monkey's life is as sacred as a man's.

If you will take your Bibles, and read the tenth chapter



of second Kings, you will see, that among the beautiful things that the ships of Tarshish and the navy of Hiram brought to Solomon, were peacocks ; and it is thought they were obtained in India, or, as it was then called, Ophir. One reason people think so is, because they are natives of India ; and another is, because the Tamil words for “ivory, apes, and peacocks,” now used in Ceylon, are very nearly the same as the Hebrew names for them that Solomon used so long ago. In some parts of India great numbers of peacocks may be seen feeding together, lighting up the wood with their bright plumage ; and some of them are so tame, that they will go into the villages, and roost on the huts. In many places, it is forbidden by law to shoot a pea-fowl ; but, even where this is not so, if a European should kill one of them, the people would be very indignant with him.

The Hindoos consider the cow as the most sacred of animals, and are very much opposed to its being killed for food. The cobra, also, one of the most poisonous snakes in India, is worshipped by great numbers of people. They are afraid to say it is a bad snake, for fear it should injure them : so they call it “good snake,” and go from time to time to its holes to offer milk, plantain, and other good things. In many places temples are erected, and even sacrifices offered, to this creeping god. Images of it are often seen in the temples and other buildings ; and the Hindoos have many stories about it in their sacred books. Some of the Hindoo idols are monstrous and disagreeable mixtures of the human form with beasts and reptiles ; and the people are like those of whom Paul wrote, who, he said, had “changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.”

CHINESE PETS.

PEKIN, CHINA, Aug. 21, 1874.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—This afternoon a Chinaman came to visit me (you see I am going to tell you a story); and he had on a long white gown, with sleeves that were much too big for him. After we had talked a while, of a sudden I heard somebody grating his teeth up one of those long coat-sleeves: at least, the noise sounded like that. At first it grated just once, and not very loud; but, after waiting a minute, it set to work in good earnest, and the way it grated was wonderful. It almost prevented our talking; but the Chinaman struck the sleeve with a fan which he held in the other hand, and at once that somebody in the sleeve stopped grating his teeth.

We talked on in peace a while, when somebody began to file a saw in that Chinaman's bosom: at least, I couldn't see anybody, but it sounded like that. He, too, first gave just one little file as if to say, "Listen, now, here's music for you;" and then how he did file! The Chinaman tapped his bosom with his fan, and that noise stopped.

When I heard these queer noises coming from inside my friend's clothes, I looked very sharp at him, and saw, hanging by a string from the top button of his coat, close under his chin, a funny little cage. It was made of coarse bars of straw, and was about two inches square; and inside was a large grasshopper, or, to speak as big people do, a cicada. He wasn't singing, nor doing any thing but taking his breakfast from a tiny piece of apple that was thrust between the bars of the cage.

When my Chinese friend saw that I noticed this strange prisoner, he pulled back his big sleeve, and there was the fellow who had been grating his teeth. He was another cicada, just like the first, and in just such a cage. Then

he opened his frock ; and there was the fellow who had been filing his saw ; and he, too, was a cicada. My friend unfastened all these cages from his clothes, and put them down on the table for me to look at. They were great, green, sleepy-looking fellows, about twice as big as our grasshoppers, and didn't look as if they were any judges of music at all ; but pretty soon they all struck up again. The first one grated his teeth ; the second one filed his saw ; and the third made a noise like frying : and with the grating, and the filing, and the frying, we had music enough, such as it was. The Chinese like this noise as much as we do the singing of canary-birds : so men hunt these cicadas in the fields, make cages for them, and bring them into the city in great loads carried over their shoulder.

After this you will not think it strange if I tell you that the Chinaman's own voice is just about as coarse as the cicada's. He thinks they make sweet music ; and so he makes that which is like it. The sad fact is, dear little folks, his voice has never been made gentle and soft and sweet by hearing and singing those precious songs of Christ, of which every Sunday-school boy and girl knows so many. But few of these hymns have been translated into his language ; and not many of the Chinese have learned to sing even those which have ; and those who do try to sing, poor people, can as yet do it only in the grating, filing, frying style.

You do not know, dear ones, how much you owe to Jesus. Not only the Bible, but all the Christ songs, and voices of gentle tone with which to sing them, are his gift. One must know Jesus, or live in Jesus' land, before he can have a voice to praise him. Think of this, children, and remember with love and pity these dark places of the earth, where Jesus' smile is never seen, and his sweet music never heard.

LUCY.

MISSION-CIRCLES.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

- MAINE BRANCH. — *Freeport*. — “Buds of Promise,” \$3.00.
South Freeport. — “Snow-Birds,” \$3.00.
Pownal. — “Little Workers,” \$3.00 ;
Thomaston. — “Echoes,” \$10.00.
- NEW HAMPSHIRE BRANCH. — Some pennies gathered by a departed boy, \$1.15.
- VERMONT BRANCH. — Christmas offering of the Mission-Circles of Rutland, \$8.21.
- MASSACHUSETTS. — *Barre*. — Edith’s Missionary Box, \$1.40.
Boston, East — “Buds of Promise,” \$3.75.
Boston Highlands. — “Eliot Star Circle,” \$12.50.
Brockton. — “Messenger-Birds,” \$5 00.
Cambridge. — “Shepard Band of Little Workers,” \$30.00.
Chelsea. — Gracie B. Allen’s Missionary Bank,” \$5.00.
Grantville. — Sallie, Fannie, and Helen, \$5.00.
Hatfield. — “Hatfield Gleaners,” \$15.00.
Marblehead. — “Cheerful Workers,” \$6.25.
Medway. — The “Gleaners,” \$70.00.
North Brookfield. — “North Brookfield Helpers,” \$125.00.
North Weymouth. — George H. French, 59 cents.
Peabody. — “Morning-Star Circle,” \$180.00.
Plymouth. — “Mary Allerton Mission-Circle,” \$50.00.
Southampton. — “Bearers of Light,” \$110.00.
Spencer. — “Hillside Workers,” \$5.00.
Springfield. — “Earnest Workers,” \$2.50.
West Roxbury. — “Mission-Circle,” \$200.00.
- CONNECTICUT. — *Darien*. — “Two little Penny-Gatherers,” \$1.00.
- NEW YORK. — *Flushing, L. I.*, “McGregor-Hall Gatherers,” \$169.49 ;
“Bird’s Nest,” \$2.21.
- MICHIGAN. — *Litchfield*. — “Shining Lights,” \$4.00.
- ILLINOIS. — *Chesterfield*. — “Earnest Workers,” \$21.05.
- WISCONSIN. — *Mt. Sterling*. — Gay’s Mills Sabbath School, \$4.50.
Royalston. — “Happy Girls,” \$5.00.
- IOWA. — *Burlington*. — “Little Workers,” \$24.00.
Des Moines. — “Prairie Chickens,” \$25.00.
- MINNESOTA. — *Minneapolis*. — Plymouth Church S. S., \$35.00.
- DAKOTA TERRITORY. — *Yankton*. — “Willing Hearts,” \$7.00.

THE CHILDREN'S MEETING.

"THE Woman's Board couldn't do without the children," said a friend the other day. And the answer was, "Indeed we couldn't." And we wouldn't, if we could. We have always been glad that the children were a part of our band of workers, but never more so than when we saw hundreds of them gathered in Park-street Church, Boston, for a missionary meeting on the 6th of January.

The meeting opened with an address given by Master Young, one of the "Shawmut Helpers," who told us that the boys and girls were ready for a grand crusade against heathenism; and, as we looked over the church, we felt that the cause was in good hands. A poem called "Mein Archie's Temple," written by Mrs. DeRiemer, a missionary in India, was very sweetly read by Miss Ida Pratt; and then came the best part of the meeting, an address by Mr. George A. Ford, the son of a missionary, and almost a missionary himself. After talking to us very pleasantly for a while, he disappeared behind a screen, and soon came back so changed, we hardly knew him. Indeed, one little blue-eyed girl tremblingly, asked, "Is that a man?" I couldn't begin to tell you how he was dressed: all I know is, that he had on a Turkish suit, and over it a large sheep-skin cloak, a cap of the same material on his head, and a crook in his hand. He said he was a shepherd just from Palestine, and then went on to tell us how he took care of his sheep,—in the very same way in which the shepherds did when the Saviour was on the earth. And I am sure we shall all know better what it is for the Good Shepherd to carry the lambs in his bosom, since we have seen how the large pockets were made out of the big warm cloak. Then Mr. Ford told us about the thousands of heathen children who had never heard of our Good Shepherd, how

desolate and unhappy they were without his kind care ; making us long more than ever before to tell them all about him.

The meeting closed with a beautiful floral recitation, "All the World for Jesus:" at least, we thought it was going to close with it ; but it didn't. Just before the benediction, quite to our surprise, a very little girl from the audience appeared on the platform, and sang very sweetly one of her sabbath-school songs, — "Gather the Children in." Yes, we would like to gather the children from all parts of the world into the blessed fold, where they will be safe from all harm forever. We will do our best to bring them in ; but we need the assistance of every boy and girl in the United States to do it. Will you help us ?

ACROSTIC.

BY C. A. MATHIS.

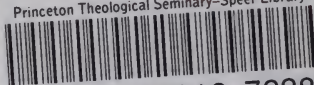
1. The wife of a distinguished patriarch.
 2. A soldier who won his wife by success in arms.
 3. A dealer in dyes, and noted for hospitality.
 4. A woman of Moab.
 5. A "soprano" and musician.
 6. Where the enemies of Nehemiah desired to meet him.
 7. Mother-in-law of the great-grandfather of a distinguished king.
 8. One who was early at the sepulchre.
 9. An unfortunate princess.
 10. The mother of one greater than a prophet.
 11. A queen in the land of Edom.
 12. A servant of the church at Cenchrea.
 13. A good grandmother.
 14. A beautiful woman of world-wide reputation, and mother of a large family.
- My whole is a magnificent building mentioned in the Bible.
-

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Life and Light for Woman

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library



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